

Remarks

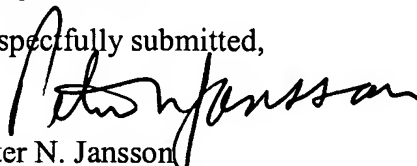
This Supplementary Preliminary Amendment adds nine claims, including independent claim 38. The newly added claims do not include any new matter. Rather, the new claims have been added to better claim the invention disclosed in the application as originally filed, and to further provide clarity.

In particular, dependent claims 36 and 37 were added to show that the breadth of independent claims 29 and 34 encompasses rods that have portions that extend in a direction other than within a single plane. *See Intermatic Inc. v. Lamson & Sessions Co.*, 273 F.3d 1355, 1364 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (the doctrine of claim differentiation allows a presumption that each claim in a patent is different in scope). The dependent claims merely clarify an aspect of the scope of the invention that is covered by the original claims.

Likewise, independent claim 38 does not contain new matter. Rather, it merely recites certain claim limitations present in original claims 1 through 20. As such, no new search is required to determine the patentability of claim 38 or claims 39-44 which depend from it.

All claims, including the newly-added claims, are in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 10-0270 for the newly added claims. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if such would be helpful in resolving any issue which might remain.

Respectfully submitted,


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